



State Legislative Update for the Week of January 12 - 16, 2015

Monday, January 12, 2015

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Senators Newman and Latz introduced:

SF 73: A bill for an act relating to family law; establishing and modifying the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 518.17, subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law as Minnesota Statutes, chapter 518E.

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senators Gazelka, Ruud and Brown introduced:

SF 74: A bill for an act relating to the military; designating certain lands around Camp Ripley as sentinel landscape; creating a coordinating committee; requiring a report; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 190.

Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

Senator Wiger introduced:

SF 79: A bill for an act relating to taxation; providing a veterans jobs tax credit; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 290.

Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

McNamara introduced:

HF 68: A bill for an act relating to veterans homes; modifying cost of care calculations; providing for annual adjustments; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 198.03, subdivisions 2, 3.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance.

Dettmer, Lillie, Wills, Gunther, Pugh, Nash and Rosenthal introduced:

HF 125: A bill for an act relating to veterans; providing a veterans jobs tax credit; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 290.
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Dettmer, Wills, Gunther, Pugh, Nash and O'Neill introduced:

HF 127: A bill for an act relating to the military; appropriating money for a grant to support activities related to the commissioning of the USS Minnesota.
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance.

Dettmer, Lillie, Wills, Gunther and Pugh introduced:

HF 129: A bill for an act relating to parks and trails; appropriating money for improvements at the veterans rest camp in Big Marine Lake.
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Mining and Outdoor Recreation Policy.

Dettmer, Wills, Gunther and Nash introduced:

HF 133: A bill for an act relating to lawful gambling; adjusting audit amounts for organizations; making clarifying and technical changes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 297E.06, subdivision 4; 349.19, subdivision 2.
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Commerce and Regulatory Reform.

Dettmer and Pugh introduced:

HF 134: A bill for an act relating to veterans; making technical changes to veterans trust; removing obsolete provisions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 197.133; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 197.131; 197.132.
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Dettmer and Pugh introduced:

HF 137: A bill for an act relating to taxation; individual income; allowing a subtraction from taxable income for military retirees and survivors; repealing the credit for past military service; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 290.01, subdivision 19b; 290.091, subdivision 2; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 290.0677, subdivision 1a.
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Dettmer and Pugh introduced:

HF 141: A bill for an act relating to veterans; modifying veteran-owned small business certification for purposes of state procurement; requiring contract bid preference for veteran-owned small businesses in certain situations involving capital investment projects; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 16C.19; 375.771, subdivisions 1, 2; 469.44, by adding a subdivision; 471.3457.
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Dettmer, Pugh and Nash introduced:

HF 142: A bill for an act relating to veterans; modifying disabled veteran's credit and definition of disabled veteran for purposes of the veteran's preference; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 197.455, subdivisions 5, 6.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Dettmer, Gunther and Nash introduced:

HF 146: A bill for an act relating to veterans; designating the Honor and Remember Flag as an official symbol of the state's commitment to military service members who have lost their lives in service to our country; encouraging display of the flag on certain days in certain public locations; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 197.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Dettmer, Wills, Gunther, Pugh, Nash and Rosenthal introduced:

HF 147: A bill for an act relating to veterans; property taxes; extending the market value exclusion for surviving spouses of deceased service members and permanently disabled veterans; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 273.13, subdivision 34.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Committee Hearings

Committee: House Veterans Affairs Division

Chair: Rep. Bob Dettmer

Agenda:

Don Kerr, Executive Director of the **Department of Military Affairs**, presented an agency overview outlining the dual status of the military force with the reserve components of the US Army and Air Force and the state military force under control of the Governor, totaling 13,315 Soldiers and Airmen. The Army and Air National Guard participate in the Global War on Terrorism, domestic operations, have special equipment capabilities and conduct Reintegration events along with maintaining Yellow Ribbon networks to support service members and their families.

Mike McElhiney, Legislative Director, Brad Lindsay, Acting Deputy Commissioner, and John Powers, Finance Director, provided an overview of the **MN Department of Veterans Affairs Program and Services** division. The FY2014-15 budget for Programs and Services totals \$46.2M from all funding sources. As a result of the “veteran enterprise”, \$2.336B in federal dollars was returned to the State in 2013, an increase of \$358,806,000 over 2012. The department is continuously developing as a Post-War Agency, as we move into the 14th year of war/conflict. The Post 9/11 veterans will require programs and services for the next 50+ years.

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Erhardt, Rosenthal, Halverson and Selcer introduced:

HF 171: A bill for an act relating to taxation; individual income; allowing a subtraction for military retirement pay; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 290.01, subdivision 19b; 290.091, subdivision 2.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division.

Thursday, January 15, 2015

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Senators Koenen and Dahms introduced:

SF 89: A bill for an act relating to capital improvements; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for a veterans home in Montevideo.

Referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

Senators Senjem, Nelson and Dahms introduced:

SF 123: A bill for an act relating to taxation; individual income; allowing a phase in for subtraction for Social Security benefits; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 290.01, subdivision 19b; 290.091, subdivision 2.

Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

Senators Senjem, Nelson and Dahms introduced:

SF 124: A bill for an act relating to taxation; individual income; allowing a phase in for subtraction for Social Security benefits; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 290.01, subdivision 19b; 290.091, subdivision 2.

Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

Senators Sieben, Saxhaug and Dziedzic introduced:

SF 131: A bill for an act relating to veterans homes; modifying cost of care calculations; providing for annual adjustments; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 198.03, subdivisions 2, 3.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Senator Senjem introduced:

SF 147: A bill for an act relating to workforce development; providing employment services to persons with traumatic brain injuries; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 268A.

Referred to the Committee on Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development.

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Miller, Swedzinski, Dettmer and Sanders introduced:

HF 207: A bill for an act relating to capital improvements; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for a veterans home in Montevideo.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance.

Committee Hearings

Committee: Senate Tax Reform Division

Chair: Senator Ann Rest

Agenda:

SF 40 (Gazelka): Income tax subtraction for military retirement pay. This bill provides a military retirement pay subtraction from federal taxable income for state income tax filing. The bill was laid on the table.

**Upcoming Committee Hearings of Veterans Interest
Week of January 19 - 23, 2015**